

Precisely, mediæval influences have so far triumphed as to cause the introduction of painted glass more severe in style than the church itself,—glass which I have often heard made the theme of extravagant admiration. And for churches in the Greek style, surely it would not be difficult to form an artistically flat style: I say flat, because a flat style may be made more severe than a rotund style could be in painted glass, using the powerful and beautiful colours, whose resuscitation I have proclaimed,—and resorting to the pure models of antiquity for the forms. Recent researches have exploded the idea that weak colours only are appropriate for the decoration of Greek architecture: why not, then, use deep colours in the windows, and shame the mediævals into some sort of improvement, by associating beautiful colouring with exquisite drawing?

CHARLES WINSTON.

#### SMITHFIELD AGAIN IN LONDON.

IN pursuance of the provisions in the Act 14 & 15 Vict. cap. 61, which empowers the Corporation of London to provide a place for holding a cattle-market in lieu of the market now held in Smithfield, and a meat-market, with slaughter-houses, and lairs for cattle, they have agreed to purchase of Mr. C. Lee seventy-two acres of the Copenhagen Estate, Islington, for the sum of 54,000*l*. The Copenhagen Tavern is about the centre of the site.

RECENTLY published statistics serve to show that at the last census the number of occupied houses in the metropolis was 307,722, and that to supply the population which in fifty years' time it is likely may be resident here, will require an addition of 435,000; more than double the present number; and that while the people within the last ten years have increased 21 per cent. their dwellings have only increased 17 per cent.

Now if such statements have any value, or bear any approximation to truth, they avail before all things to prove the imperative necessity of increasing vigilance on the part of the public, and especially all in authority, to every proposed plan of improvement calculated to affect permanently the general convenience and welfare of the inhabitants of this great city.

It should be borne continually in mind that the great fight of the public is ever with close monopolies and class interests. It is these alone which have compelled us so long to subsist, and to so great an extent, on filthy water and tainted meat; to inhale all the impurities of open sewers and cesspools, overcrowded and suffocating church vaults and graveyards; to suffer from the numberless cruelties and abominations of our slaughterhouses and cattle markets; and to have the entire atmosphere polluted by dense volumes of sooty smoke and vapour, accompanied with every noxious exhalation from fever-disseminating and unwholesome trades and avocations.

Such foes are not easily routed. However discomfited for a time, they return again and again upon the least lull of public attention, and, with a tenacity of purpose and lavishness and ingenuity of resource which no temporary defeat or discouragement can entirely subdue, they resume their intrigues and labours till they finally become triumphant over all opposition.

Not to draw an example from the history of railroads, where such desperate conflicts and mighty ruin have occurred, the case of Smithfield, which is more immediately to our present purposes, furnishes the most notable and recent instance.

Condemned by universal public opinion, and, as a consequence, denounced by the entire independent press, and at length, as was fondly hoped and thought, finally defeated, it again threatens to reappear, within a very short distance of the precise locality from which it has but recently been so ignominiously driven. At the very last moment, after having recourse to every species of resistance, the City authorities, with the concurrence of the Government, undertake to carry the new measure into effect; and what are they going to do?

It must be evident, from what is stated above, that Copenhagen-fields, the site chosen for the new market, will soon be required for the erection of private dwellings, and that, in a very few years, the neighbourhood will become as thickly peopled as that of the present Smithfield itself, and that thus provision is made beforehand for the reiteration of all the old objections to the market being held in the metropolis at all, which it has cost the press and the public so much labour and so many years of agitation to get rid of. If it is now too late to prevent this, the public will at least do well to scan with the closest scrutiny all the arrangements connected with the carrying the scheme into effect. What is the use of such bodies as the Board of Health, the Sanitary Association, and the Commissioners for Metropolitan Improvements, if they do not interfere to point out, if needs be, to the Government, the objections which in all such cases it is their peculiar province to inquire into; and, if possible, prevent?

FOOTPAD.

“We have received from some friends of Mr. Donhill, papers showing that it was he who, in 1847, brought before the corporation and the select committee of House of Commons the advantages of Copenhagen-fields as a site for the new market, and the general outline of the scheme they have now adopted, and complaining of want of acknowledgment and consideration on the part of the Markets Committee. The committee should take this into consideration. For our own parts, however, we do not recognise the advantages of the site: we agree with the correspondent whose letter we have printed that it is too near the metropolis.”

#### STIR IN THE SOCIETY OF ANTIQUARIES.

THE calm that has for some time prevailed in the Society of Antiquaries has been recently disturbed by a motion to reduce the admission-fee from 8*l*. 8*s*. to 5*l*. 5*s*.; and the annual subscription from 4*l*. 4*s*. to 2*l*. 2*s*.; the terms which prevailed in the society up to 1807. Mr. Bruce, the treasurer, in a letter to Lord Mahon, the president, had set forth that the onward progress of the society had been checked by the alteration at that time. The letter showed that the average number of new members admitted annually, taking the twelve years before the alteration, was 37, and of compounders, 20½; while the average number during the last twelve years was 17, and of compounders, 5½. In 1807 there were 813 members: in 1851, there were but 484. The declension has been gradual, but unintermitting. On consideration of this statement and the subject generally, the council determined on submitting a proposition to the society for altering the fee and subscription to the sums formerly payable; and on the 27th ult. this was carried at a special meeting of the members by 55 to 41. At the same time, with a view to prevent the admission of improper persons, the ballot was made more stringent; one-fifth black balls, instead of one-third as now, being sufficient to exclude. The motion was very ably opposed by Mr. Pettigrew, and that gentleman has since published a pamphlet on the subject, while Mr. Lott has given notice of a motion to rescind the resolution. We trust, however, that the society will not be led to do so. Without going the length of attributing the falling off in numbers wholly to the amount of the subscription, we are satisfied that a large number of working antiquaries in various parts of the country, would join it if it were less, by whose means the works of the society would be greatly benefited. Let fitness be the test for membership rather than the ability to pay 4*l*. 4*s*. annually. We look at this change as the first step to great improvements in the society and increased activity. The society ought to have at least as many members now as it had in 1807, notwithstanding the increased number of similar bodies, and we have no doubt whatever that it would have if the new arrangements had fair play, and the efforts to improve were continued. The society ought to let the country hear it is alive whenever and wherever its interference

can be useful; committees should be appointed to determine on the publication of papers, and illustrations where required should be of the best character: those in the last part of the *Archæologia* are far from creditable. We quite agree, too, with a suggestion from Mr. Pettigrew, that “the interests of the society would be promoted by the vice-presidents holding their seats for two years instead of a permanency.”

We sincerely hope that no animosity and ill-feeling will be induced by the present discussion. Surely one gentleman may think that the efficiency of the society may be increased by reducing the subscription, and another that this will not be so, without personally quarrelling or ascribing improper motives one to the other. Those who have compounded may feel themselves personally aggrieved, but even these should regard the change as one of the chances of life, and remember that if circumstances had led the society to increase the sum payable, they would not have been called upon for a further contribution.

#### ORATORY IN THE BEAUCHAMP CHAPEL AT WARWICK.

THE picturesque oratory which we this week engrave is not only architecturally beautiful in its proportions, decoration, and general effect, but has the additional interest of containing objects which, by their appearance, associate themselves with past events. The little oratory in Beauchamp Chapel might, if divested of its contents, be looked over by many with a passing glance, but the rusty and grim-looking helmets, the ancient carved chest, and other objects like the withered garlands, portions of armour, coronets, and tattered banners sometimes met with in country churches, fix the attention and lend a charm to the architecture.

The oratory is situated on the north side of the Lady Chapel of St. Mary's at Warwick, which was founded according to the will of Richard Beauchamp, Earl of Warwick, who was in his day an eminent statesman and soldier. The oratory, which also served the purpose of a confessional, is 5 feet 6 inches above the level of the chapel: the confessional is raised somewhat higher, and communicates with the chancel of the church, where there is a grating of decorated ironwork: the aperture is shown in the engraving: the groined ceiling is richly ornamented with fan tracery and pendants. At the east end, where the helmets are now placed, was formerly the altar, with an elaborate niche on either side: these niches and some other parts of the oratory were, at the time of our visit, in a sad state of decay. The building of the Lady Chapel and oratory was commenced by the executors of Richard Beauchamp in 1439 and finished 1464, at the cost of 2,481*l*. 4*s*. 7*d*. a large sum at that time. The tomb of the founder, which is of great beauty, is situated in the chapel: this tomb is the more interesting in consequence of the contracts of the various workmen being still preserved: these are printed in Dugdale's “Warwickshire,” and Britton's “Archæological Antiquities,” vol. 4. There are other curious tombs in the chapel, amongst which is that of the Earl of Leicester, of the time of Queen Elizabeth, who is made one of the actors in Sir Walter Scott's novel of “Kenilworth.” On the tomb of Richard Beauchamp is the following inscription:—

“Prelate devoutly for the Sowel whom god assoille of one of the moost worshipful knyghtes in his dayes of monhods & conning Richard Beauchamp late Earl of Warrewik lord Despenser of Bergevenny & of many other grete lordships whose body resteth here under this tumber in a fulfere rout of Stone set on the bare rooch thewhuch visited with longe siknes in the Castel of Roan therinne deceased ful cristienly the last day of April the yer of oore lordy god a mccccxxix, he being at that tyme Lieutenant gen'ral and governer of the Roialme of france and of the Duchie of Normandie by sufficient Autorite of our Sou'aigene lord the King Harry the vi. thewhuch body with grete deliberacon and ful worshipful coadiut Bi See And by lond was broght to Warrewik